

*Washington, DC* - The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. John Hall (NY-19) today that will create jobs and lower energy costs for homeowners in the Hudson Valley. H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act, passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 246 to 161.

The Home Star program provides rebates for families who invest in energy-saving home renovations, such as insulation, windows, doors and energy-efficient heating systems.

Rep. Hall said, "Home Star will provide jobs to people who have been hit hardest by housing market crash: builders and contractors, hardware store owners, and makers of construction materials. Meanwhile, homeowners will save money year after year."

The program creates two tracks of rebates. The Silver Star program would provide up-front rebates for the installation of specific energy-saving appliances and devices. These include new water-heaters, duct sealing, insulation, and modern doors and windows. Homeowners would be eligible to receive up to \$3000 in rebates under the Silver Star program.

The Gold Star program would reward families who conduct a comprehensive home renovation. Consumers would take a comprehensive home energy audit to find out just how much energy they are using, and would learn about measures to make the whole home more efficient. Homeowners would then earn \$3000, or half the cost, for renovations that reduce energy use by 20 percent. Homeowners could receive up to \$8000 for additional energy reductions.

"In addition to providing valuable savings for consumers, Home Star would also create thousands of jobs – including contracting jobs in the Hudson Valley – jobs that won't be sent overseas," Rep. Hall said. "Manufacturing will also get a lift, because more than 90 percent of the materials and products used to retrofit homes are manufactured right here in America."

The Home Star program has also received widespread support from industry and energy groups.

Jay Timmons, Executive Vice President of the National Association of Manufacturers, said, "The Home Star program would spur much-needed consumer demand for energy-efficient products and building materials by providing significant and immediate rebates for home energy-efficiency retrofits."

R. Bruce Josten, Vice President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said, "The home retrofit industry is a uniquely American industry: the vast majority of windows, doors and insulation for these retrofits are manufactured in the United States. The incentives provided by H.R. 5019 would create living-wage jobs for American workers, while providing homeowners the ability to make a substantial reduction in their overall energy costs."

Kateri Callahan, President of the Alliance to Save Energy said, "My organization works around the world to promote energy efficiency and, in recent years, we have seen foreign businesses pick up speed as their countries have taken the lead in developing clean energy manufacturing

and in promoting smart energy use. Home Star will bring efficiency jobs and manufacturing back to our shores and drive innovation and development in energy efficiency for years to come.”